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161314Z Sep 03

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 001874

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF FOR A/S KANSTEINER AND PDAS SNYDER; AF/S FOR  
DELISI AND RAYNOR; AFPD  
NSC FOR JENDAYI FRAZER  
LONDON FOR GURNEY  
PARIS FOR NEARY  
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/13/2013

TAGS: KMDR KPAQ PHUM PREL ZI

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REPORT: ARMED RIOT POLICE BEGIN FORCED  
SEIZURE OF DAILY NEWS' ASSETS

Classified By: JPOLACHECK FOR REASONS 1.5 b/d

¶1. (C) According to an eyewitnesses account by head legal counsel of The Daily News, (TDN), Gugulethu Moyo, armed riot police came to the TDN offices and began forcibly removing the assets of the company. In place of taking TDN CEO Sam Nkomo to court this morning (September 16), the police instead suggested a meeting at TDN offices instead. At which point they declared to TDN legal counsel, Moyo, that "we're seizing all assets." The police presented no warrant, no court order, or any documentation at all. When Moyo and Nkomo protested, they were told by the fully armed Law and Order Maintenance police unit, that "if you want us to get a warrant, we'll just arrest you for resisting our efforts." The police then went ahead and began to pack up the assets of TDN, desks, files, computers, etc. This continued as of 14.00Z. TDN advised that they have already filed an urgent application for an injunction against the seizure. As well, Moyo is preparing an urgent application to attempt to prevent a similar event from occurring at the new printing presses which TDN used and is actually owned by a seperate company.  
SULLIVAN